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Message Text

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12
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

DRC-01 /153 W
---------- 118101
R 150800Z JUL 74
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0300
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0160

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT ITS JULY 12 MEETING,CHAIRED BY US REP, AHG HEARD A REPORT BY THE US REP ON A JULY 11 BILATERAL WITH SOVIET REPS (SEPTEL) AND THEN CONSIDERED DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR USE IN THE JULY 15 INFORMAL SESSION. AHG APPROVED TWO SETS OF TALKING POINTS, WHICH DEAL WITH THE "ALL-PARTICIPANTS" FORMULA AND THE SIGNAL OF ALLIED READINESS TO DISCUSS ITS DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. NEXT AHG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 15, END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST SET OF TALKING POINTS CONTAINS A COMPARISION OF THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" FORMULA WITH THE PREVIOUS ALLIED ASSURANCE THAT PHASE 2 REDUCTIONS WOULD ON THE WESTERN SIDE, "FOCUS" ON THE FORCES OF OTHER
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DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. THE TALKING POINTS ASSERT THAT

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THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" FORMULA REPRESENTS A MOVE TO
MIDDLE GROUND SINCE THE "FOCUS" FORMULA NETHER RELATED
TO ALL THE REMAINING WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS NOR
REPRESENTED ANY COMMITMENT FROM THE OUTSET. ADDRESSING
THIS ASPECT OF THE TALKING POINTS, GREEK REP (DOUNTAS)
NOTED THAT THE "FOCUS" FORMULA HAD CONSTITUTED A
COMMITMENT, EVEN THOUGH THE EXTENT OF THE COMMITMENT
WAS VAGUE. UK REP (ROSE) DEMURRED, MAINTAINING THAT THE
FOCUS FORMULA HAD BEEN OFFERED IN A CONTEXT OF GIVE AND
TAKE AND WAS A STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS. HE CAUTIONED
THAT ALLIED REPS MUST NOT CONSIDER THAT EVERY STATEMENT
THEY MADE IN FORMALS BOUND THEIR COUNTRIES. US REP
SAID HE CONCEIVED THE FOCUS FORMULA AS HELPING
TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS. IT
BOUND THE ALLIES, WITHIN THESE CONSTRAINTS, TO NEGOTIATE
IN GOOD FAITH. WITH THE "ALL-PARTICIPANTS" OFFER, THE
ALLIES HAD FURTHER ENGAGED THEMSELVES.

3. ITALIAN ACTING REP (TALIANI) SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS
A NORMAL TACTIC, IN PRESENTING A NEW FORMULA, TO DEPRECIATE
BY COMPARISON THE FORMULA IT HAD REPLACED. GREEK REP
RESPONDED THAT THE EFFECT OF SUCH A PLOY MIGHT BE,
INSTEAD, TO WEAKEN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE NEW WESTERN
OFFER BY SUGGESTING THAT THE ALLIES HAD NOT BEEN
COMMITTED IN THEIR PREVIOUS FORMULATION. US REP
POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" FORMULA,
EACH OF THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS EXCEPT
LUXEMBOURG WAS COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN REDUCTIONS,
WHEREAS, UNDER THE "FOCUS" FORMULA, THERE WAS ROOM
TO EVADE COMMITMENT BY CLAIMING TO BE AN EXCEPTION.
BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) AGREED WITH US REP, BUT
POINTED OUT THAT TO MAKE THIS POINT WOULD BE TO
SUGGEST THAT THE NEW FORMULA ENTAILED A SET OF
INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS, A PROPOSITION WHICH THE BELGIAN
REP DOUBTED THAT THE FRG COULD ACCEPT. FRG REP (BEHRENDS)
CONFIRMED BELGIAN REP'S ASSUMPTION ON THIS SCORE. AHG
AGREED TO RETAIN THE ABOVE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE.

4. GROUP THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE
JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT SHOULD MENTMION ALLIED
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WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS A DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES
AFTER THE RECESS. THE GROUP AGREED TO DO SO, BUT IN
A FORM LESS SPECIFIC THAN THE FORMULATION SET OUT
IN THE ALLIED TALKING POINTS FOR THE JULY 15 INFORMAL.
WITHOUT CONTESTING THIS DECISION, UK REP POINTED OUT
THAT THE AHG HAD TOLD THE NAC THAT THIS MATTER WOULD
BE MENTIONED IN AN INFORMAL, BUT HAD NOT REFERRED TO
ITS USE IN A PLENARY. US DEPREP RESPONDED THAT HE

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ASSUMED THAT UK REP WAS NOT ASSERTING THAT THE QUESTION OF THE FORMUM IN WHICH GUIDANCE WOULD BE USED WAS A QUESTION FOR DECISION IN BRUSSELS. AHG MUST RETAIN TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY TO USE WHATEVER FORUM OR FUMS IT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. UK REP REPLIED THAT HE AGREED FULLY, BUT DID BELIEVE THAT IN THIS CASE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO BE AS EXPLICIT IN THE PLENARY STATEMENT AS IN THE INFORMAL.

5. NEXT AHG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 15, 1974.RESOR

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